



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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FEMA-1525-DR-VA  
***Commonwealth Situation Report #9***  
***Tuesday, July 6, 2004***

### **1. Situation**

- A system of severe storms began moving through Southwest Virginia on May 24, 2004. Flash flooding occurred on May 24-25 in Tazewell and Russell counties. Tornadoes damaged homes in Lee County on May 28. Flash floods impacted Buchanan County and several other counties in Southwest Virginia over the June 12-15 period. One flood-damaged road, Route 772 in Russell County, remains closed.
- On May 25 Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency for Tazewell and Russell Counties and on June 3 expanded the declaration to include Lee County.
- On June 2, Governor Warner requested that President Bush issue a major disaster declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties. He requested federal aid through the Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.
- President Bush granted a Federal Disaster Declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties on June 15, 2004. The Commonwealth's request to add Buchanan County was approved June 29.
- On June 25, 2004, Governor Warner signed the FEMA-Commonwealth Agreement to implement joint recovery programs.
- The incident period began on May 24 and ended June 26, 2004.

### **2. Weather Forecast for Buchanan, Russell and Tazewell Counties**

***Today through Thursday - Partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower to mid 80s, lows in the 60s. Light winds with a chance of rain 20 to 50 percent.***

### **3. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives**

- ☐ Notified legislators, county officials and the media of Buchanan County add-on.
- ☐ Implement Commonwealth Emergency Relief to Localities (CERL) Program.
- ☐ Notify affected citizens and communities of the availability of federal disaster assistance.
- ☐ Address potential housing and rental resources issues.
- ☐ Implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ☐ Manage public expectations through targeted media releases and contacts with public officials.
- ☐ Implement Other Needs Assistance (ONA) Program.

#### **4. Recovery Activities**

##### **A. Human Services**

###### **□ Individual and Household Program**

- Housing Assistance (HA)
  - *The State Individual Assistance Officer is seeking information from the West Virginia State IAO regarding their success in receiving replacement housing assistance from FEMA.*
  - *The Bureau of Insurance helped a Lee County applicant resolve an insurance payment problem.*
- Other Needs Assistance (ONA)
  - *The first batch of checks for Other Needs Assistance (ONA) will be issued by July 9.*
- See pages 5 and 6 for statistical information on registrations, activity in the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).

###### **□ Volunteer Organizations**

- Representatives of the Mennonite Disaster Services visited the disaster area and have offered to evaluate washed-out private bridges brought to their attention by the FEMA VAL to determine if they could provide the labor to rebuild. A situation investigated in Russell County proved inappropriate for their services.
- *The American Red Cross provided nominal funeral expense assistance to the family of a North Carolina man who died in Henry County floodwaters.*

###### **□ Disaster Recovery Center**

- The local recovery task forces in Russell and Tazewell Counties are assisting as requested, and have representatives in the DRC to meet with individuals.
- *The DRC is scheduled to close at 1:00 pm, Saturday, July 10, 2004.*
- *The Buchanan County Recovery Task Force has agreed to provide a representative to staff the DRC.*

###### **□ Donations Management**

- Tazewell and Russell Counties are coordinating distribution of donated goods.
- Clinch Valley Community Action (CVCA) is *continuing to provide disaster relief to all local counties. The telephone number for assistance is 276-988-5583. Applicants must continue to be referred by FEMA, American Red Cross or VDEM to be eligible.*

###### **□ Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

- Effective June 18, 2004, assistance is available for residents of the declared jurisdictions. Residents can call or visit the nearest Virginia Employment Office. As of 7/05/04 no applications have been received for DUA.

###### **□ Mental Health**

- The Cumberland Mountain Community Services Board is providing mental health assistance for residents of Tazewell, Russell *and Buchanan Counties. Applicants needing mental health assistance are being provided the local telephone numbers to call for service.*

## **B. Community Relations (CR)**

- ❑ ***Two CR teams continue working in Russell, Tazewell and Buchanan Counties*** distributing flyers, contact information and encouraging registration for assistance.
- ❑ Teams are assessing unmet and special needs and researching available rental residential units in their assigned jurisdictions.

## **C. Mitigation**

- ❑ The FCO & SCO have approved and signed the Mitigation Strategy for FEMA, DR-1525-VA.
- ❑ The FCO has submitted a letter to the SCO approving the Administration Plan and Volume 6, Mitigation of the Emergency Operations Plan.
- ❑ Development of Bluefield Mitigation Success Stories has progressed:
  - FEMA Mitigation Officer and External Affairs FEMA officer along with the Commonwealth PIO toured Bluefield on July 1 and met with local business owners involved in mitigation in the “old town” business district. The visit supplemented previous information gathered to support development of the success stories.
- ❑ The DCR (NFIP) program engineer, David Gunn, met with building officials in Russell and Tazewell counties to reinforce the NFIP program provisions for manufactured homes in the floodplain. In anticipation of pending temporary housing by FEMA, Gunn provided ‘Travel Trailer Tips’, which were well received by the local officials. Mr. Gunn also met with the zoning and building officials in Bluefield, Virginia and the Town of Abingdon.

## **D. Legislative Liaison**

- ❑ Appropriate State Senators and Delegates have been notified of the Buchanan County addition to the Presidential declaration.

## **E. Hazardous Materials**

- ❑ Regional Hazardous Materials Officer is continuing to monitor situations in the area.

## **F. Public Affairs**

- ❑ Field work in Bluefield for Mitigation “Success Stories” piece. ***Took photos and researched stories for mitigation division.***
- ❑ ***Sent out “DRC Closing” news release. Center will close Saturday, July 10 at 1pm.***
- ❑ ***Responded to routine media calls.***

## **G. Disaster Recovery Task Forces**

- ❑ The task forces for Russell and Tazewell Counties have representatives in the Richlands DRC.
- ❑ The State Coordinator for Local Recovery Task Forces is based at the DRC.
- ❑ Buchanan County Task Force is coordinating with the LRTF State Coordinator for participation in the Tri-County DRC in Richlands.

## **H. Miscellaneous Actions:**

- ❑ VDH (Health) and DEQ (Environmental Quality) in Russell and Tazewell Counties continue to assist citizens with evaluating drinking water safety.
- ❑ Tetanus vaccinations remain available from the local health departments.

## I. State Coordinating Officer

- ❑ The Deputy SCO contacted the Buchanan County Administrator on June 29 to inform him of the declaration and associated assistance programs, ***and notified him*** of the Community Relations activities scheduled for June 30.
- ❑ ***Staffing adjustments continue; 9 state personnel assigned to recovery activities.***
- ❑ Next Commonwealth sit-rep will be ***Thursday, July 8***, and Tuesdays and Thursdays thereafter.
- ❑ DFO will be open M-F (8AM-6PM), Saturdays (8AM-1PM). DFO will be closed Sundays.
- ❑ Daily contact with local Emergency Management Coordinators and other local officials.

Signed, Brett Burdick, Deputy SCO

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator  
/s/ Brett A. Burdick, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE-DAILY STATUS REPORT  
FEMA DR-1525VA

COB: **07-05-04**

**July 6, 2004**

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	<b>780</b>			
DAILY REGISTRATION	<b>12</b>			
		DESIGNATED COUNTIES	<b>12</b>	<b>756</b>
		UNDESIGNATED COUNTIES	<b>0</b>	21

INDIVIDUALS & HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM (IHP) OVERVIEW

Eligibility Rate	<b>87%</b>	Payments Apprv'd	<b>\$842,968.18</b>
Registrations Referred	<b>671</b>	Payments Disb'd	<b>\$835,676.62</b>
Registrations Approved	<b>472</b>		
Registrations Ineligible	<b>114</b>		
Registrations Withdrawn	<b>17</b>		
Registrations Pending	<b>68</b>	IHP Max Awards	<b>35</b>

HOUSING ASSISTANCE (HA)

Eligibility Rate	<b>89%</b>
\$ Amount Apvd	<b>\$842,968.18</b>
\$ Amount Disbursed	<b>\$835,676.62</b>
Referrals	<b>661</b>
Approved	<b>472</b>
Ineligible	<b>112</b>
Withdrawn	<b>17</b>
Pending HA Categories	<b>60</b>

OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE (ONA)

Eligibility Rate	0%
\$ Amount Apvd	\$0.00
\$ Amount Disbursed	\$0.00
Referrals	<b>256</b>
Approved	0
Ineligible	<b>46</b>
Withdrawn	<b>5</b>
Pending ONA Categories	<b>205</b>

INSPECTION SERVICES (IS)

Inspections Issued	<b>680</b>
Returned to FEMA	<b>661</b>
Outstanding	<b>19</b>
Inspectors in the Field	<b>4</b>
Turnaround Time	<b>01.11.24</b>
QC Inspections	34
% Of Inspections Completed	<b>97%</b>

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

Home App. Issued	<b>374</b>
Business App. Issued	<b>64</b>
EIDL	0
Total App. Issued	<b>438</b>
Approved	<b>5</b>
Pending	<b>28</b>
Total \$ Approved ( <b>cob 07-01-04</b> )	<b>\$95,400 (COB 07-01-04)</b>

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS		OPEN	CLOSED	TODAY	CUMULATIVE
TAZEWELL (RICHLANDS)	FIXED	6/21/2004	<b><i>7//10/04</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>	<b><i>263</i></b>
TOTAL				<b><i>6</i></b>	<b><i>263</i></b>

DESIGNATED COUNTIES	DAILY	CUMULATIVE
BUCHANAN (COUNTY)	5	<b><i>83</i></b>
LEE (COUNTY)	<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>87</i></b>
RUSSELL (COUNTY)	<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>290</i></b>
TAZEWELL (COUNTY)	5	<b><i>296</i></b>
TOTAL	<b><i>12</i></b>	<b><i>756</i></b>
UNDESIGNATED COUNTIES	DAILY	CUMULATIVE
AUGUSTA (COUNTY)	0	1
DICKENSON (COUNTY)	0	2
DINWIDDIE (COUNTY)	0	1
HANOVER (COUNTY)	<b><i>0</i></b>	1
HENRY (COUNTY)	0	1
JEFFERSON (COUNTY)	0	1
PAGE (COUNTY)	0	1
SCOTT (COUNTY)	0	1
SMYTH (COUNTY)	<b><i>0</i></b>	1
SOUTHAMPTON (COUNTY)	0	1
WASHINGTON (COUNTY)	0	4
WISE (COUNTY)	0	2
TOTAL	<b><i>0</i></b>	17